GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6909
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
SUPPLY OF SUB-STANDARD/FAKE MEDICINES
Appadurai Shri M.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of complaints have been received from the general public regarding supply of sub-standard /fake medicines being supplied in C.G.H.S. Dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any surprise check have been conducted to verify the medicines being supplied to the CGHS dispensaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)to(d): Occasionally, such complaints are received from the CGHS beneficiaries. There is an inbuilt mechanism to ensure quality of drugs supplied through the CGHS dispensaries as detailed below:-

i) Only pre-tested medicines are accepted by the CGHS Medical Store Depot from the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation(HSCC) which is making bulk supply of medicines to CGHS Delhi. The HSCC gets the drugs tested from two Government authorised labs and submits the test reports to the CGHS MSD along with the medicine supplies.

ii) Random samples of drugs are drawn by the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation/CGHS MSD and sent to CIPL, Ghaziabad for testing the standard of the drugs.

iii) Random samples of drugs are also sent by the CGHS MSD to Govt. approved labs in Delhi for testing.

iv) Samples are also sent to the Govt. approved labs by the CGHS MSD when specific complaints are received.

The use of medicines/drugs that are found to be spurious/of substandard quality is immediately suspended and withdrawn from the CGHS dispensaries and the CGHS MSD and thereafter sent back to the HSCC who have supplied the medicines. Further, the Drug Controller General of India is immediately informed to take appropriate action against the Firm/Suppliers of the medicine.

The details of Lab testing of drugs in the dispensaries under CGHS Delhi during 2004-05 is as under:-

A total of 57 samples of drugs were lifted out of which:

i) The number of drugs tested by DCG(I) through the CDSCO is 34, and
ii) The number of drugs tested by the CGHS MSD through Govt. approved labs is 23.

Out of the 57 items of drugs tested, only one item was declared substandard(17 samples of the that item were found to be substandard).

The Drug Inspectors of DCG(I) also make surprise checks and lift samples from the CGHS dispensaries and CGHS MSD. During the year 2004, there were three such surprise checks by the Drug Inspectors.

The following action was taken by the CGHS on receipt of the reports after analysis of drugs:-

i) All the CGHS units were advised to suspend the use of the substandard drugs and return the balance quantity to the CGHS MSD.

ii) The HSCC was requested to replace/lift the quantity of drugs found substandard which was subsequently done.

(iii) The DCG(I) was requested to take appropriate action against the firm that had manufactured the substandard drug.